"ON CLOUD NINE" — Two counselors and 13 girl scouts from the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital were "still on Cloud Nine" Sunday, their group director Pallie Berry said after the scouts talked with President Richard M. Nixon Friday afternoon at the entrance to Camp David near Thurmont. The Scouts were hiking to an overnight camp site at Poplar Grove when the President's motorcade stopped.

'They Were Flabbergasted'

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Girl Scouts Still On 'Cloud Nine'

By ERIC GREEN
Staff Writer

Thirteen young girl scouts are "still up on Cloud Nine" after they talked with President Richard Nixon outside Camp David in the Catoctin Mountains near Thurmont.

The 13 girls and their two counselors were hiking to an overnight campsite at Poplar Grove when they spotted the President's car motorcade approaching the entrance to Camp David, the Nixon presidential retreat.

Nancy Anderson, counselor for the "Hill Unit" of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, said the President talked to the girl scouts for about 10 minutes before continuing to Camp David to recuperate from a recent bout with viral pneumonia.

The Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital is composed of girls from the Washington Metropolitan area, Pallie Berry, director of the Girl Scout camp at Misty Mount, said.

Ms. Anderson said the President stopped his motorcade outside Camp David about 4:30 p.m. Friday. When the President stepped from his limousine, the girl scouts as well as a number of reporters clustered around him.

Nixon's police car escort, leading the Presidential procession, continued into Camp David not realizing the President's car had stopped. The driver of the police car, realizing his mistake, eventually returned to the Camp David entrance.

The conversation between the President and girl scouts ranged from topics about camp stew, Nixon's recent illness, picture taking and the weather in Saginaw, Mich., Ms. Anderson's home town.

"The President asked us where we were from and where we were

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GIRL SCOUTS

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going. Then he asked us what we were going to have for dinner.

"We told him we were going to have camper's stew and one girl told him how poisonous it was," Ms. Anderson said.

"He put his hand on a girl and said that it (camper's stew) must be good because you're cooking," she recounted.

The President then talked with the scout group's two counselors, Ms. Anderson and Barbara Colston while the scouts listened.

"Where are you from?" Nixon asked Ms. Anderson, a teacher from Saginaw.

After hearing her response, the President replied, "Everytime I go there it rains."

The President also discussed his recent illness, telling the girls they need not worry because "you won't catch it from me."

"He asked the girls if they wanted their pictures and after they said yes, the President said, let's go over to the sign. Let's put all the short ones in front,' " Ms. Anderson reconstructed.

She added, "The President waved goodbye saying have a nice hike. I have to be going."

Ms. Anderson said that President Nixon seemed shorter than what she had expected. "He looked tired, like he had been sick," she said.

About 6:30 Friday night, after the girl scouts had reached their Poplar Grove campsite, one of Nixon's aides, a Navy man, came into camp with two pecan pies sent to the scouts compliments of President Nixon.

Asked if the girls were nervous meeting the President, Ms. Anderson said, "They were too excited to be nervous. They were kind of flabbergasted. They have been excited ever since. I'm excited. I have heard his helicopter above the camp. I never expected to see him."

The 13 girls of the Girl Scout Council and the two counselors who met the President last Friday at Camp David were: Sarah Mortenson, 10; Heidi Biedenkapp, 9; Christina Aughenbaugh, 10; La Fleur Jones, 8; Patricia Pugh, 9; Elizabeth Lochte, 9; Zulema Pijero, 10; Jeannie Pollock, 9; Cindra Millward, 9; Pauline Dawedeit, 9; Sylvia Gashi, 9; Ronyl Minor, 9; Karen Carmichael, 10; and Barbara Colston, 18, Nancy Anderson, 26, both counselors.